

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 289372
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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O SVALERGA

APPROVED BY: S/S-O SVALERGA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 289372

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 6037, SENT SECSTATE 05 DEC:

QUOTE S E C R E T BEIRUT 6037

NODIS

FOR ASST. SECY. ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINR, PFOR, EG, LE

SUBJ: COMMENT ON DRAFT MEMORANDUM: "CONSEQUENCES OF A MOVE
BY SADAT TO MAKE A SEPARATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL"

REF: STATE 288648, BEIRUT 6026

1. HAD OPEN-ENDED DISCUSSION WITH BOUTROS DEC. 5 WHICH MAKES
INTERESTING POSTSCRIPT TO OUR COMMENTS ON DRAFT MEMORANDUM.
WE DISCUSSED EARLY PRESS REPORTS THAT TRIPOLI CONFERENCE
HAD DECIDED BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND APPARENT
AGREEMENT BY FATAH TO JOIN REJECTIONIST FRONT. BOUTROS

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FELT THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO SERIOUS DETERIORATION OF
SITUATION IN AREA AS CONFRONTATION DEVELOPED BETWEEN TRIPOLI
GROUP AND SADAT. HE INITIALLY SAID THAT SADAT HAD CHOICE OF
CONCLUDING SEPARATE PEACE, RESIGNING, OR REJOINING ARAB RANKS
AND REJECTING NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL. NOTING, HOWEVER,
FACT SYRIANS APPARENTLY HAVE NOT REJECTED NEGOTIATED PEACE
PROVIDED TERMS ARE RIGHT, HE AGREED THINGS MIGHT NOT COME TO

THAT PASS. IN ANY EVENT, HE CONCERNED THAT PRESSURES ARE GOING TO DEVELOP ON LEBANON TO JOIN SYRIANS AND WANTS TO KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP LEBANON RESIST SUCH PRESSURES.

2. I SAID WE COULD OF COURSE CONTINUE BILATERAL AID AND GIVE THEM DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT. GIVEN SYRIA'S SUPICIONS OF OUR ROLE IN SADAT'S INITIATIVE, HOWEVER, OUR DIPLOMATIC INFLUENCE THERE MIGHT BE LIMITED IF CONFRONTATION DEVELOPED. HE SAID WE WOULD STILL HAVE IMPORTANT CARD TO PLAY AS ONLY POWER ABLE TO RESTRAIN ISRAEL. HE THOUGHT RISK OF ISRAEL TRYING SOMETHING AGAINST SYRIANS WAS HIGH AND ASSAT KNEW IT.

3. I ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT SADAT WAS GOING TO ACCEPT A SEPARATE SETTLEMENT AND WHETHER IT MADE ANY DIFFERENCE WHAT TERMS HE GOT IF HE DID. BOUTROS THOUGHT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE SADAT WOULD AND THE TERMS WERE VERY IMPORTANT. IF SADAT HAD CONCESSIONS FROM ISRAELIS WHICH WOULD MAKE A REASONABLE PACKAGE AND COULD PRESENT THEM TO THE ARAB WORLD AND ARAB PUBLIC OPINION, REACTION WOULD BE MUCH Milder THAN IF HE WENT FOR A BILATERAL SETTLEMENT THAT ONLY GAVE HIM THE SINAI PENISULA. IN LATTER EVENT, THERE WOULD BE A REAL CONFRONTATION IN THE ARAB WORLD AND THE RESULTS WOULD BE VERY SERIOUS FOR LEBANON.

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4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DAMASCUS AND TEL AVIV . PARKER UNQTE VANCE

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